

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 034748
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO:JEBURGESS:ML
APPROVED BY PM/ISO:GTCHURCHILL
S/S-O:RGAMBLE

-----160333Z 055742 /66

R 152333Z FEB 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUSBAE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0948

SECDEF

CINCEUR

CINCPAC

JCS

CNO

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCPACFLT

/COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T STATE 034748

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL RPT KHARTOUM 0534 ACTION SECSTATE 15 FEB 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0534

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MORG, SU

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST FORCE - THE NEW FORMAT

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REF: STATE 030235

1. FROM POLICY STANDPOINT, GIVEN NIMEIRI REGIME'S
CURRENT PROFESSIONS OF CONCERN RE POSSIBLE INCREASE IN
SOVIET INFLUENCE IN RED SEA AREA, I WOULD ASSUME SUDAN
MIGHT BE WILLING RESPOND POSITIVELY TO COMMITMENT REQUESTED PARA
9, REFTEL. HOWEVER, PUBLICITY RE ANY SUCH ACTION WOULD BE ENTIRELY

AT VARIANCE WITH THIS GOVERNMENT'S SETTLED NONALIGNED POLICY. EVEN IF GOS WOULD AGREE, THEREFORE, BELIEVE THEY WOULD EXPECT ANY BAHRAINI PUBLICITY TO BE GENERALIZED IN SUCH TERMS AS "OTHER ARAB/AFRICAN AND SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES IN REGIONS". SHOULD GOS AGREE, MOREOVER, WE COULD EXPECT CONSIDERABLE SUDANESE INTEREST IN QUID PRO QUO WHICH MIGHT GO BEYOND SUBSTANTIAL PAYMENTS FOR USE PIER SPACE WHICH ASSUME WOULD BE NO PROBLEM.

2. FORM TECHNICAL STANDPOINT, PORT SUDAN PORT FACILITIES ARE JAMMED. FLAGSHIP COULD NOT HAVE UNINTERRUPTED ACCESS PIER SPACE FOR FOUR TJWL CONSECUTIVE DAYS WITHOUT SERIOUSLY COMPLICATING LOCAL CONGESTION AT PORT AND RISKING CRITICISM (WHICH COMMUNISTS MIGHT SEEK STIMULATE) THAT DELAYS IN HANDLING AND TRANSIT CARGO SOMEHOW ATTRIBUTABLE USN VISIT. SITUATION IS SO TIGHT THAT MAJOR EFFORT CURRENTLY UNDER WAY DEVELOP NEW PORT JUST NORTH OF SUAKIN, BUT COMPLETION THIS ADDITIONAL FACILITY OBVIOUSLY YEARS AWAY. IN ADDITION PORT PROBLEMS, FIERCE PORT SUDAN HEAT SEVEN MONTHS OF YEAR AND TOTAL ABSENCE OF NORMAL SOURCES DIVERSION WOULD IMPOSE SPECIAL BURDENS ON USN PERSONNEL. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING PART OF YEAR THERE EVEN SERIOUS LIMITATIONS ON FRESH WATER SUPPLY.

3. VIEW FOREGOING, DO NOT BELIEVE PORT SUDAN SHOULD BE VISITED MORE THAN ONCE ANNUALLY AND THAT VISIT SHOULD OCCUR DURING NOVEMBER/APRIL PERIOD. WOULD
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BE PREPARED SEEK GOS COMMITMENT ON THAT BASIS BUT SUDANESE APPROVAL WOULD BE FACILITATED IF THEY COULD BE INFORMED PRIVATELY THAT SAUDI ARABIA, MUSCAT AND NUMBER AFRICAN AND SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES ALSO BEING APPROACHED. BREWER

UNQUOTE HARTMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY VISITS, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE034748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JEBURGESS:ML
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770054-0639
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770238/aaaabida.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 27264bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 30235
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3313352
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIDDLE EAST FORCE - THE NEW FORMAT SECRET SECRET
TAGS: MORG, MOPS, SU, US
To: NEW DELHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/27264bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009